

V. REMARKS

The Office Action asserts that the title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title of the invention is provided hereinabove that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

Claims 1, 2, 4 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by Uchiyama et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,638,165). Claims 3, 6, 7 and 9-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Uchiyama et al. The rejections are respectfully traversed.

Applicants respectfully would like to explain the conceptual differences between the configuration of Uchiyama and the present invention. The game machine of Uchiyama needs to be as dark as possible inside the panel, while the inner side of the panel needs to be as bright as possible in the game machine according to the present invention.

Specifically, Uchiyama discloses a game machine that is configured to project an image on a monitor 13 onto a half-mirror 1g that is disposed in front of the reels. Therefore, the inner side of the panel (half-mirror 1g) needs to be as dark as possible, except for the reels, in order to clearly display the overlapped image of the monitor 13. The present invention is characterized in that (A) the reels (or the rim part thereof) are formed to be transparent or semi-transparent, or that (B) the reels are formed to reflect or to diffuse the light from the light source, thereby to prevent a shadow of the reels from being projected onto the front LCD device. Accordingly, the inner side of the panel (LCD device) becomes as bright as possible to be served as a backlight of the LCD device.

Uchiyama suggests to transparently display the symbols arranged on the reels, and not the reels themselves, on the half-mirror 1g, as can be seen in Figures 2, 7 and 8A. Although Uchiyama describes the use of plastic for forming the reels (column 11, line 7), one skilled in the art would not be motivated to form the reels (annular bodies) to have a transparent or reflected characteristic, because it would damage the image quality of the symbols displayed on the half-mirror 1g.

Uchiyama describes that the *wall surface surrounding the mechanical reel*

portion 6 is painted in dark color (column 7, lines 1-4). This also teaches away from the claimed invention.

For at least the reasons described above, withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

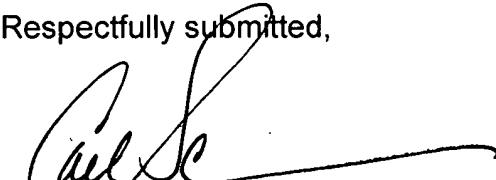
Further, Applicants assert that there are also reasons other than those set forth above why the pending claims are patentable. Applicants hereby reserve the right to submit those other reasons and to argue for the patentability of claims not explicitly addressed herein in future papers.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of the application and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance; the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the telephone number listed below.

Should additional fees be necessary in connection with the filing of this paper or if a Petition for Extension of Time is required for timely acceptance of the same, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 18-0013 for any such fees and Applicant(s) hereby petition for such extension of time.

Respectfully submitted,

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